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Back To School Issue

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Mt. Carmel's Alpha II Christian School Builds Character

Moss Point High School's Block Scheduling Improves Learning

St. Rose de Lima Hosts Mid-50's School Reunion

Opinion Poll: Advice for Parents from Educators

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MISSISSIPPI Star

VOL.1 NO. 12 AUGUST 1997

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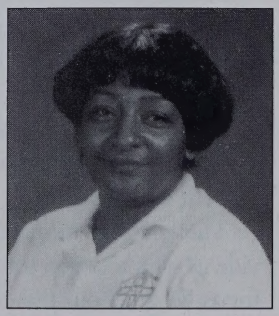

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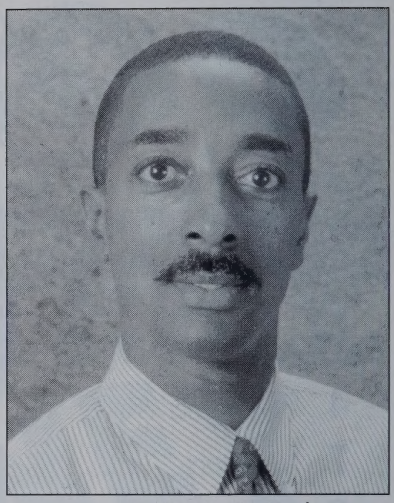


Maurice E. Singleton, Jr.

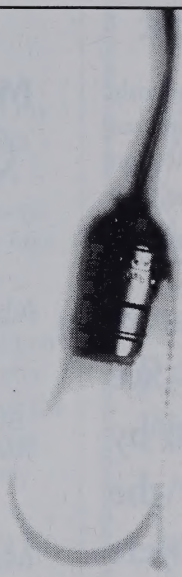
How important is setting goals to success? I haven't come across any statistics that provide an absolute answer to this question. However, I would guess that the incidence of success for those who set goals is significantly higher than for those who do not.

By the third week of this month, most students will have returned to school in order to learn and develop skills which will advance them to the next levels of their lives. For younger students this means that they will be improving reading, writing and mathematical skills which will prepare them for the next grade level. The preparation many high school students will be involved in will ready them for college, trade school, entry-level work or military service. For college students the preparation should lead to professional employment or graduate school. Whatever the case, the education and training each student experiences over the following nine months should take him/her nine months closer toward achieving whatever goals that either they or their parents may have set for them at this time.

The key is to set goals. Goals provide us with a target, something to aim for as we go about the everyday things we do that may relate directly to our goals or may have very little to do with our goals. For example, let's imagine that the goals of an eleventh grade student are to spend at least an hour a day on English assignments, to make an A grade in the class, to work fifteen hours a week at a part-time job, and a long-term goal of attaining a college scholarship. If the goal is followed on a daily and weekly basis, this student will not likely have a problem choosing between going to a Friday night party or having to work or study. This student may work the party into his/her schedule after work or may even alter the study schedule to make up the study time on another day.

Setting goals allows us to define for ourselves what is most important; it teaches us to prioritize. It makes us tune in to success and focus on our futures. All of us should set goals for ourselves, and apply every effort toward achieving our goals.

Just about any career we choose or



After 70 years, we all may see things in different ways, but not in a different light.

While there will always be times in our lives when views will differ, it's the common experiences we all share that are most important, most worth remembering. Family reunions. The birth of a child. Spontaneous acts of kindness. Lasting relationships. At Mississippi Power, working together in many different ways has been our strength. Some things never change.

MISSISSIPPI POWER

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PUBLISHER'S PAGE

job we hold will be defined by goals. The closer the goals of our employers are to our own personal goals, the more likely we are to achieve success.

It's never too early or too late to begin setting goals. Children in elementary school can learn valuable lessons about life and success by setting goals and pursuing them. High school and college students as well as adults can also increase their chances for success by setting realistic and attainable goals and focusing their energies towards achieving those goals.

"Just about any career we choose or job we hold will be defined by goals. The closer the goals of our employers are to our own personal goals, the more likely we are to achieve success."

As the start of a new school year gets underway, now is a good time for all of us - students as well as working people - to set new goals for ourselves. Maybe one of our goals could be to help a child or someone who might look up to us set goals for himself/herself. Our communities could certainly use some stories of goals successfully achieved. MS

MISSISSIPPI Star

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LETTERS

Dear Maurice,

I want to tell you how much my husband and I enjoy reading the *Mississippi Star.*

FR. "T" subscribed to our magazine for us and it is one of the best gifts he has ever given to us.

The *Star* helps us to keep up to date with all the local Bay "happenings" until we come to our winter home each year. Reading about the people and events of the Bay area makes us feel less apart from our second home.

The Bay and all the people in it are very special to us.

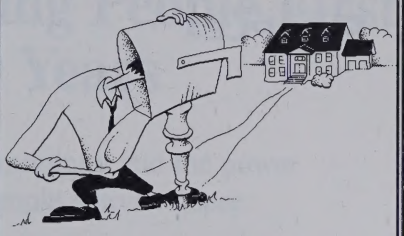
Thanks again,
Your "part time" neighbors,
Oscar and Marie Cyr

Cambridge, MA
(April-January)

Bay St. Louis, MS
(February - April)

WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE FIRST TWELVE ISSUES OF THE MISSISSIPPI STAR?

To be included in the Anniversary Issue of Mississippi Star, responses should be received by no later than August 25, 1997.



MOVING? RECENTLY MOVED? ABOUT TO MOVE?

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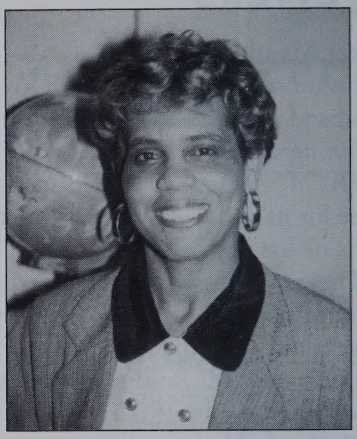
Letters to the Publisher should be 100 words or less. **Star Calendar:** Events of interest to South Mississippians should be submitted on your organization's letterhead, specifying the date, time, place of event and a number of contact.

Submissions should be received by the twentieth day of the preceding month. Be sure to include a daytime telephone number. Mail submissions to *Mississippi Star,* P.O. Box 2651, Bay St. Louis, MS 39521.

Mississippi Star reserves the right to refuse or decline to publish any submission.



PORTIA STEWART

Portia Stewart of Pass Christian is beginning her 25th year of teaching, all in the Bay St. Louis-Waveland School District. She is a third-grade teacher at Waveland Elementary.

"I love kids," said Stewart. "When you introduce something and at first the kid doesn't understand: Watching them grow and seeing them learn is one of the most rewarding experiences.

"I want to prepare children to live in the real world," she explained. "Education is built on foundation and you start with small steps. I want them to know that we are preparing them to make a difference in the world. Each person should strive to make a difference. We strive to make a difference in children's lives."

Elaine LaFontaine, a friend and fellow third grade teacher, said that Stewart is an inspiration to all. "She is a tremendous role model in her community as well as in her school. Portia is always willing to help others.. She is a caring, loving person who has helped many students in our school. She has been a dedicated teacher and friend to many in the Bay-Waveland School District for the past twenty-four years."

Stewart is serving in the second year of her second term as president of the Pass Christian School Board. She is a graduate of Randolph High School and Alcorn State University. She serves her church, Goodwill Baptist Church as director of the youth department which includes the youth choir and drill team; and she sings in the inspirational choir.

Portia and her husband Robert, a horologist in the jewelry department at Service Merchandise in Gulfport, have four children, two girls and two boys, and they reside in Pass Christian. Chantel is a senior at William Carey on the Coast. Nikita is planning to begin her junior year at USM Gulf Park; Ryan is a junior in the band and on the track team at Pass High; Robyn is a member of the Pass High band and is an honor student.

MS

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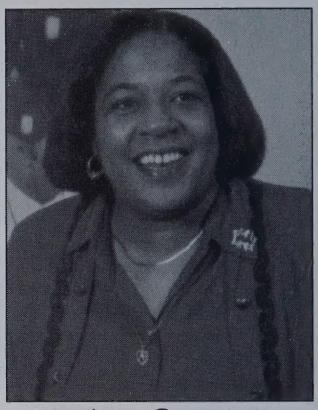


Ann Chapman

"I have had hundreds of kids come through this center," said Ann Chapman, director of Kids World Child Care Center in Hattiesburg. "Each of them is so different. I can tell you something about each one of them that makes them special."

Chapman acknowledges that she and her staff play a critical role in the development of the many children who pass through the child care center's doors. "I have had children who started Kid's World when they were six weeks old and left when they were six," she explained.

"I really regret that parents aren't able to watch their children over the course of a day," she said. "But parents have to work, so we try to provide for the needs of the children and the parents, and fortunately we are able to observe and follow the growth of the children."

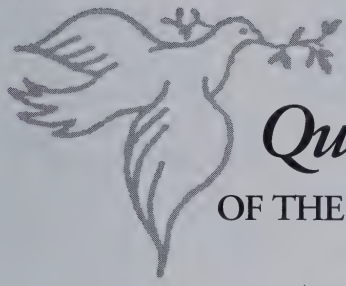
Chapman explained that she started Kids World as a means to help support her family when her husband was laid off for a second time within an eighteen-month period in 1983 and 1984. "Mr. and Mrs. William J. Heath asked me to babysit their grandchildren in January of 1984," Chapman explained. "Those were my first two kids. By March of '84 I had two more kids. And by May of 84 I had thirteen kids. I found out that I liked doing this. It fit my personality. By August I had 15 kids and a helper operating a day-care at my house. My husband converted a storage room to a day-care room for the kids."

Chapman explained that Kids World has outgrown two locations and is close to capacity at the present location on West Seventh Street where they have been for eight years.

"We cater to approximately 50 students in our child care and after-school program," she explained. "I

Continued on page 12...

The Heart of Hospice is Love



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PEOPLE ANN CHAPMAN

Continued from page 10...

try to cater to the entire needs of the family by being able to accomodate children of all ages in the family, regardless of age."

Being in business and having to operate within rigid state requirements can be a pretty tough challenge sometimes, Chapman explained. "I think knowing who God is and that he'll be there when I need him; and God has been here. I take one step at a time. I look at my business in small steps. You have to run your business from the inside out, meaning from the inside of the person. God has given me strength to overcome the many obstacles I have confronted.

"You have to have a passion for whatever it is you're doing. You have to have something special inside of you. I love my kids; I enjoy watching them grow. We make a difference one child at a time."

Ann and her husband Willie have three children, Willie Avery Jr., 20, Danna Marshelle, 17, and Deanna Alexis, five months. MS

What's Ahead in the *Mississippi Star*?

SEPTEMBER: Anniversary Issue

Coming in September's Anniversary Issue!...

- Review: How To Be Successful in Business Without Being White by Earl Graves, Publisher of Black Enterprise
- Highlights of Sixth Annual Par Busters Golf Tournament
- A Look Back at the first twelve months of Mississippi Star.

Mississippi Star Opinion Poll:

As an educator, what advice would you give parents to ensure the success of children in the classroom?

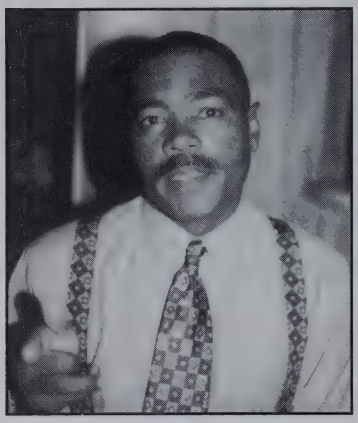
GLEN V. EAST, PRINCIPAL
Pass Christian High School

"One of the most important things parents can do to help make sure their children are successful in school is to provide a space for their children to study each evening as well as remain involved in their studies by showing a personal interest in specific classes. Defining parameters for being home at a given time, study time, and providing needed materials are definite pluses for helping students achieve."

GWENDOLYN LAWYER
Biology/Environmental Science Teacher
Pass Christian High School

"One of the best ways parents can help their children is to have a set time for study each night, no TV, radio, or games. It does not matter if the child has home work completed at school or was not given an assignment, this time is set aside for self improvement."

Opinion Poll • Opinion Poll • Opinion Poll

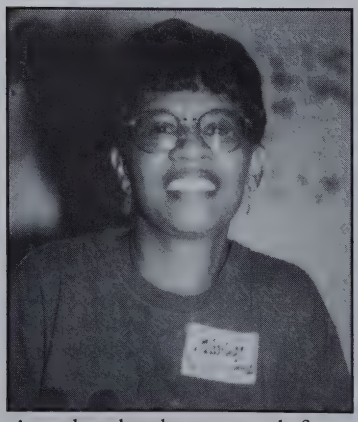


MYRON LABAT, SR.
Chairman, Social Studies Department
St. Stanislaus College Prep, Bay St. Louis

"If I am able to draw on my 23 years as a teacher and a coach, I find that the most beneficial thing parents can do for their children as students is to spend quality time with them. Sometimes this may entail parents making sacrifices or missing appointments, but the child benefits in the long run. This includes making time not only for academics but also to be there when the child is involved in extra-curricular activities."

PORTIA STEWART
Third Grade Teacher
Waveland Elementary School

"Help your child develop self-discipline. Give them chores; make sure they complete those chores; make sure they follow through, complete that task. It's their responsibility to complete that task. They have to be responsible. And we have to be consistent as parents to make sure they complete the tasks."



SHIRLEY PEDLEY
Pre-School Teacher
Bay Vista Baptist
Early Education Center

"Never leave the education of your child entirely up to the educational system. The parents must be that backbone. As parents we must constantly show them and tell them that we are proud of them. We have to encourage them and show them that we are really interested in their education. And our expectations of them must be realistic, but we should have expectations that they have to reach for and work for in order to achieve them. I also think that taking God out of the schools was a major, major mistake."

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Opinion Poll • Opinion Poll • Opinion Poll

JOAN THOMAS, *Teacher*
Our Lady Academy
Bay St. Louis

"Whether teacher or parent the most important thing we could instill in our child is L-O-V-E, especially when we listen to others and voice encouragement.

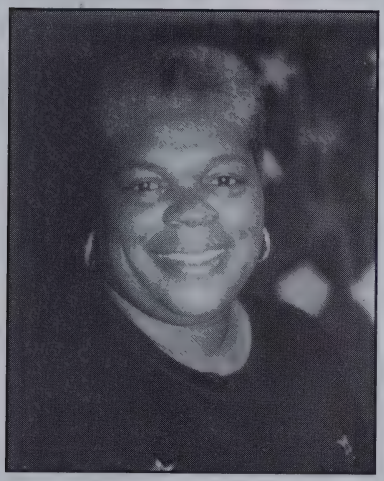
"Love also means teaching the child to be the person he can be. Love does not mean spoiling a child - but helping the child to develop into the best individual he can be with spiritual, moral and educational values.

"Always let the child know that you are interested in him and his accomplishments. Set expectations for the child and let him know what is expected.

"Many children come from single parent homes; these children are told that they are from dysfunctional families. There can be a lot of love and structure in a single parent family. I advocate that we support the accomplishments of these Family units; we no longer have the structure or support of the two parent family of years gone by. The reality of today is the single mom, or dad. All structure "PILLARS", school, church, civic organizations and yes the family must come together to raise today's children for indeed it does take a village to raise a child."

SHELIA WILLIAMS, *Principal*
Mt. Carmel Alpha II Christian School
Hattiesburg

"Pray with and for your children every day, throughout the day. Communicate with your children; and be sure to listen to them. Make quality time for them. Learn with your child so that you will have an understanding also and be able to answer questions."



EDNA TOLER, *Director*
Mt. Carmel Alpha I Christian School
Hattiesburg

"It's never too early to learn. Expose children to learning while in the womb. Communicate and read to them at this early age. Read bible versus to them.

"Parents should never think that children are too young to learn or for them to mold them into a worthwhile being because they learn a lot at a very young age. Their preschool years are very important years. Moral standards should be nurtured at an early age."

DR. AUWILDA POLK, *Director*
Human Resources and
Secondary Operations
Moss Point School District

"Parents can support their children by providing a safe haven for them at all times. A Safe haven includes a nurturing environment free from physical and mental abuse. It means providing all of the support that a child needs to be successful, inclusive of a place to eat and sleep; a place for quiet study; a place for relaxation; discipline; and teaching children the difference between right and wrong.

"If children are provided these essentials, their chance of success in school is magnified."

ST. ROSE DE LIMA CLASSES

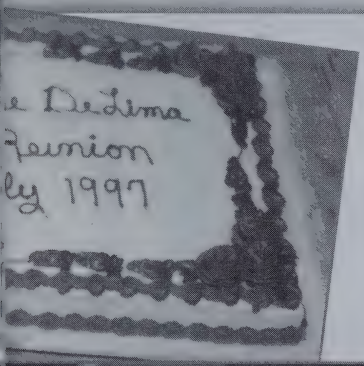
Reviewing old student pictures, From left, Father Theriault, Boston Edmonson, Judieth Tate, William Tate; Standing Ullyses Williams and Sonny Garrett.

Joseph Farve and Jean Dorsey "swing out", a dance familiar to the 1950's as well as the present.

Class of '55: Front Row, Claudette Mosely, Beverly Alt Marva Fairconnetue (all maiden names) and Boston Ea Back Row, William "Bubby" Tate, Paula Raboteau Patricia Duparte and Vivian Curry Gaunt.

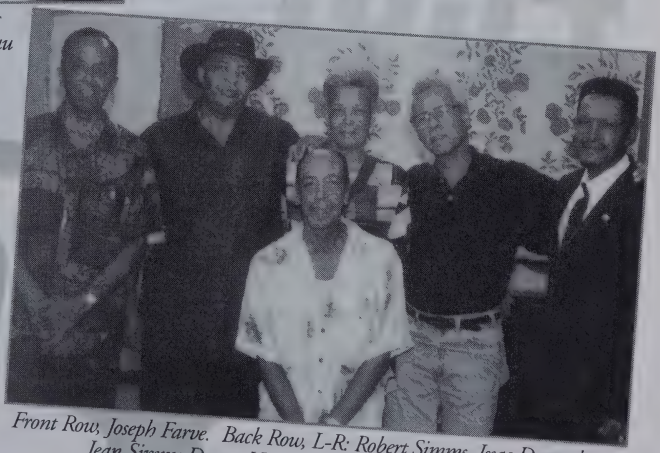
Russell Fairconnetue, Photographer

'54, '55 AND '56 REUNION



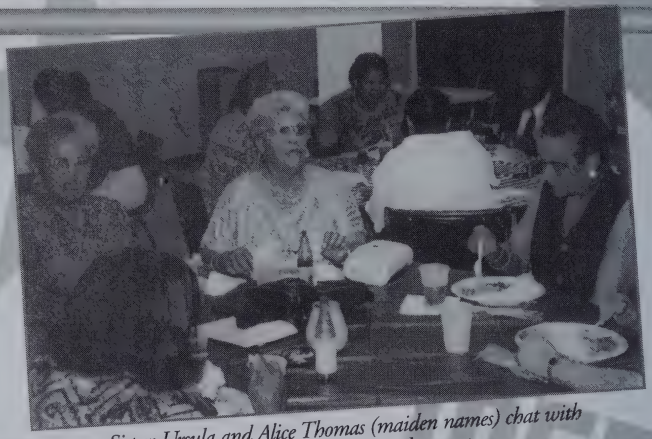
Jeff Collins is flanked by Marian "M'me" Daniels and Theresa Laneaux (maiden names).

Marva Fairconnetue looks on as n Simms and Vincent Raboteau discuss next day's events.

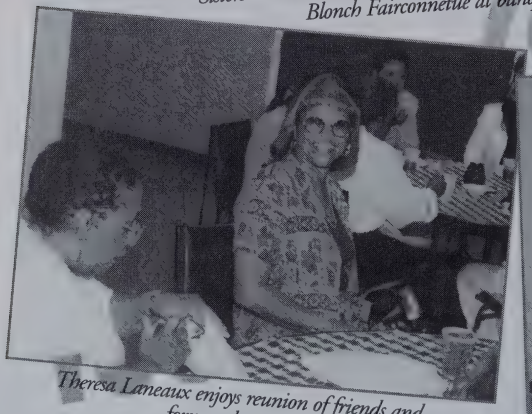


Front Row, Joseph Farve. Back Row, L-R: Robert Simms, Issac Darrenberg, Jean Simms Dorsey, Vincent Raboteau and Jordan Bush.

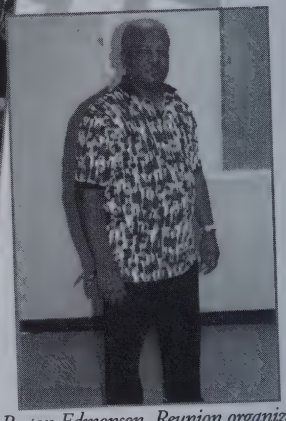
ST. ROSE DE LIMA REUNION



Sisters Ursula and Alice Thomas (maiden names) chat with Blonch Fairconnetue at banquet.



Theresa Laneaux enjoys reunion of friends and former classmates.



Boston Edmonson, Reunion organizer.

"That was one heck of a time," said Joseph Farve, class of '56. "Some of us hadn't seen eacher in 40 or 42 years. We had people come from across the country, from California to New Jersey to celebrate our years at St. Rose. Class of 56 had more former students present, which is understandable because we're the youngest class.

"We've begun planning for the next reunion in two years. This will be easier because we have names, addresses and phone numbers now. Everybody having such a grand time will also help us get more of our former classmates to come back in 1999." MS

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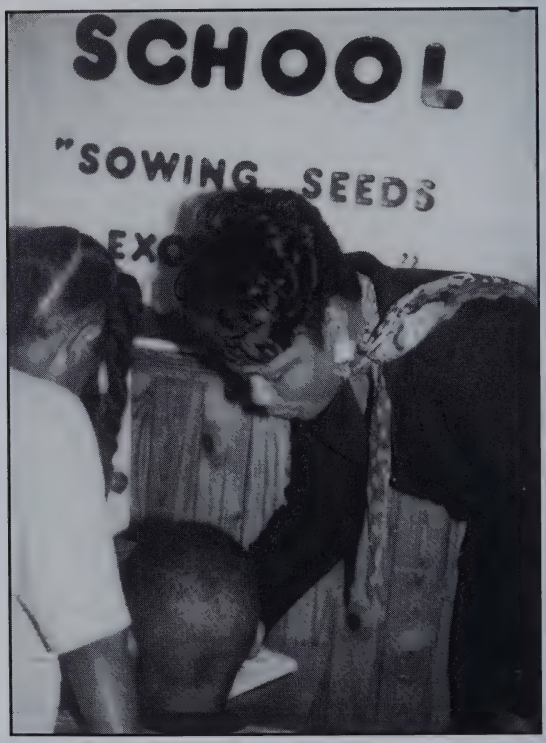
Mt. Carmel's Alpha Christian School Builds Solid Foundations

by Maurice E. Singleton, Jr.



Mt. Carmel Alpha II Christian School Principal Shelia Williams observes students working on computer.

Mt. Carmel Alpha II Christian School opened its doors in the fall of 1992 with a goal of providing a Christian education and a solid academic foundation for children. The school which is located on the corner of Mobile St. and Seventh St. in the heart of one of Hattiesburg's predominantly African-American communities, provides an alternative for

children in grades kindergarten through sixth grade.

Rev. Kenneth Fairley, pastor of Mt. Carmel Baptist Church was visiting with teachers who were on strike approximately ten years ago when the idea of starting a school first came to him.

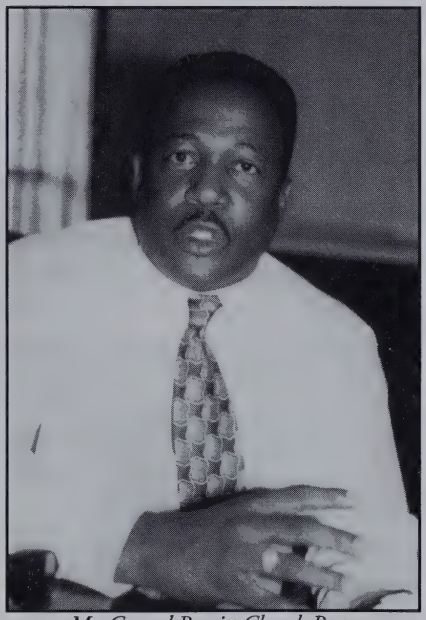
"One of the first teachers I saw was Mrs. Ruby Lee Thomas," Fairley explained. "She had about thirty years of teaching experience. As I passed her a coke, she offered me a challenge."

"Rev. Fairley, we have to do something," he remembers her saying. "We are losing generations of children. They enter first grade bright eyed and bushy-tailed and by the time they have made it to the third grade they have been placed in tracks. Little Johnny who is hyper is listed as a disciplinary problem. We are losing the war. We have to do something."

"I went to my study and spent some time in prayer," Fairley explained. "God laid on my heart that we have to win in the beginning. And hence, that's where the name Alpha came from. We listed Alpha I because we believed Alpha II, III and IV would follow."

Alpha I started approximately four years before the elementary school opened its doors. Alpha I, the pre-school and daycare began with four kids. "We opened doors with great expectations and two employees," Fairley recalled. "Denise Sutton and Birdie Dill. Denise was visionary. She had an English degree from USM and accepted the challenge to expand the school within a few years. In one year it grew from four to thirty-four children. It seemed that each year we would add an age or a grade.

"As children graduated from our daycare, we continued to keep in contact with them," Fairley said. "They seemed to be doing very well in the elementary schools. Coupled with the personalized attention that an African-American Christian school can provide, our curriculum had demanded and expected the best of them."



Mt. Carmel Baptist Church Pastor Kenneth Fairley discusses the development and growth of Alpha Christian School.

Fairley said that the expectations of the parents increased with the

success of Alpha I. Parents wanted the success of Alpha I to continue through the elementary grades. First grade was added and a grade was added until the school got to where it is today.

"Since then we have grown from 1st grade to a full-fledged elementary school which goes to 6th grade with up to 250 students.

"We are excited that we receive students that have been labeled with learning deficiences in the public schools," Fairley proudly exclaimed. "With prayer and specialized care, we are seeing students overcome those obstacles. It is a wonderful opportunity to build self-esteem. Our children don't have a back of the bus mentality. They have confidence, they are assertive and they are aggressive. They believe that they can tackle anything. They all remain bright eye and bushy tail all the way through."

Shelia Williams, principal of Mt. Carmel Alpha II Christian School confirms Fairley's assessment. "Ninety-eight percent of the students who leave Alpha are honor roll students when they attend other schools," she said.

The reason for this success according to Williams is very basic. "I believe that above all our school is a ministry. We minister first as well as teach in an atmosphere of excellence. All of our children are introduced to Christ. This is one of the first things that we do. The first class of every day is Bible study.

"You have to minister to the underlying problems before you can reach the students academically," she explained..

"Many of our students are male and must be ministered to in the area of self-esteem. Some have been previously labeled as having behavioral problems. Once the self-esteem is established, we have found that the behavioral problem is also corrected. This is one of the main reasons ACS came into existence.

Edna Toler is director of Mt. Carmel's Alpha I.

"One of the first things we do is to let them know who they are in Christ," Williams revealed. "They learn that *I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.* They learn that they can achieve. They learn that they can strive to be any-

thing that they want to be."

Williams revealed that her role at the school was also the result of a spiritual discovery. "I had worked about every type of sales job from direct mail, radio sales and I've even sold cars. I prayed to the Lord to reveal to me my purpose. When he revealed it to me, it was like a ton of bricks hit me. I quit my job as a car salesman that Friday and began teaching on Monday."

With a degree in advertising, the mother of three boys, ages 3, 5 and 8 said that the development of young people is her special calling. She has no regrets about her career change; in fact, she is excited about it.

Her advertising and selling skills will certainly come in handy as she pursues the hiring of teachers who in some cases will be considering more lucrative positions.

"We're looking for someone who has a heart for the ministry and who wants to be here out of love of the children and not for monetary reasons,' said Williams. "We're looking for teachers who are willing to invest in a child's future. Our slogan is *Providing Standards of Excellence in Christian Education.* We look for these same types of standards in our teachers. When you know that you've touched a child's life and have given him something that will last a lifetime, then the benefits of

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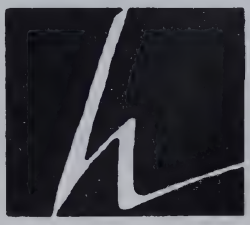

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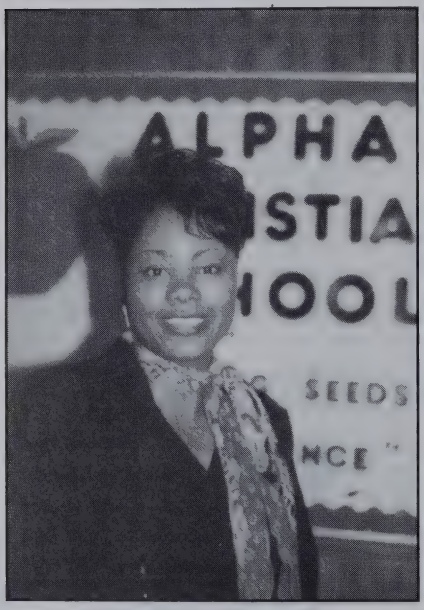
teaching here turn into rewards."

At the present time the school employs eighteen full-time teachers and five full-time staff members. Students come from all across the city, including Oak Grove on the west, Petal on the east, Palmer's Crossing on the south side as well as



Alpha II Christian School Principal Shelia Williams sees bright futures for the school and its students.

North Forrest County. And the school continues to grow as the community becomes more aware of the type of student that Alpha II develops.

"I expect tremendous growth and a multicultural school in the near future," Williams explains. "We are looking forward to progression in every aspect of the school.

"There is a great deal of competition out there because parents are expecting more from educational institutions, and consequently, more parents are turning towards private schools. For us that means more competition, but I believe that competition is healthy and it will help us to continue to strive for excellence.

"As a first year administrator, I realized that there was much to be learned, rebuilt, and mistakes to be made," Williams recalled. "But through it all, God revealed to me that he was my confidence and if I trusted in him, he would not let my foot be taken. The teaching staff was unbelievably supportive and worked together as a family in the spirit of love. I was so proud of them," she said.

That spirit of family and love has served Mt. Carmel's schools well. Not only has it worked for the faculty, it is the approach of Edna Toler, the director of Alpha I who is beginning her ninth year with the program, her second as director.

"We provide the environment of a home setting where there is love and tenderness; and we allow the child to be himself or herself. We are very open to the child; we are very friendly and we get on the child's level," Toler explained. "If a child comes in fretful, we are going to comfort that child like a mother would comfort her child. If a child comes in angry, we make that child feel comfortable and not fearful. We have children who have never been away from

mama so we have to approach being Mama.

"When I leave work in the afternoon, I feel great. Some days I might work nine or ten hours. Personally, I did not work outside my home until my children were three and four years old," Toler said. "I try to make the parents of the children enrolled in Alpha I feel the way I did when my children were at home with me.

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EDNA TOLER,
Director of Alpha I

"We have children from single-parent homes as well as two-parent homes. Sometimes children feel inferior. My job is to be sensitive to the needs of all the children as well as their parents."

As for the growth of the school, Rev. Fairley said, "We are on target. At the present time we educate children through grade six; and we are in the developmental stages of starting our junior high.

"Once you become a part of the Alpha family, you develop a sense of belonging," Rev. Fairley said. He explained that after Alpha I (the preschool) was in place, it was the demands and expectations of the parents that motivated the starting of the elementary school. Certainly, the expectations the parents have for the education of their children will grow along with the school. One gets the feeling that it's only a matter of time before Alpha IV (the high school) graduates its first class. MS

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Moss Point High School's Block Scheduling Improves Learning

by Jeanie Lunsford

Dwight Yates, principal of Moss Point High School, believes that block scheduling will lead to greater achievement for students.

Can you imagine being asked to change offices, supervisors and projects every 55 minutes of your work day? Sounds unproductive doesn't it? But most high school students have to do just that, changing classes, rooms and teachers six times a day.

Moss Point is the first high school in Jackson County to break that unproductive pattern with a new four-by-four block scheduling.

Block scheduling, an innovative approach to learning and teaching, has been adopted by 10 percent of the nation's high schools to date, and several districts in the county are considering it. With four-by-four blocks, each class meets every day, instead of only a few days a week, and lasts 90 minutes rather that 55. The result is an intense, uninterrupted focus with a year's worth of work in each semester.

Because students don't change classrooms as often, no time is wasted. "Fewer interruptions means students will be able to dig down below the surface of a subject," said Dwight Yates, principal at Moss Point High School. "It takes time, consistency and focus to gain mastery of a subject."

Moss Point High School student Helen Easterling (right) describes a computerized architectural program to school board member Pam Hull. Moss Point is the first high school in Jackson County to inaugurate an innovative block scheduling program that will provide greater flexibility for students. Students will be able to take more advanced placement courses and electives and receive more individualized support from teachers.

Yates says the longer period will make it easier to include activity-based learning, rather than just lectures. "Everyone learns better by doing, rather than just hearing about what to do," said Yates.

Students will have the opportunity to take more advanced placement classes, with more psychology and sociology classes and new law-related courses added this year. Other advanced placement courses will be added in the coming years based on student interest surveys.

This flexibility will also help students who have difficulty in a specific subject get back on track immediately. "This will allow us to provide special help; a student that is struggling won't have to wait a whole year to retake a course," said Yates.

The school's teachers are looking forward to this change, according to Yates. When he became principal last year teachers talked to him about making the change to block scheduling. Yates asked for a year to assess the school's needs, then surveyed staff again. Approximately 87 percent of the faculty voted for block scheduling. A community and district-wide strategic action planning team studying the district's overall curriculum also recommended four-by-four scheduling.

Teachers like the idea of seeing the same student everyday so that they can reinforce teaching and learning skills, says Yates. And because teachers work with four classes instead of six, they can learn and respond to individual needs better. "Down the road, we hope it will lead to more individualized

Tiffany Lott, a student at Moss Point High, demonstrates to teacher Tanya Touchet and her class of seventh-graders at Ed Mayo Junior High how ice turns from a solid to an explosive gas under pressure. This past spring, Tiffany was among a group of science students that taught teachers how to conduct low-cost science experiments. Moss Point High's teachers expect the change to block scheduling to provide more time for hands-on, activity based learning. One of the district's primary goals is to provide students with the opportunity to teach others what they learn.

student projects and smaller classes," said Yates.

Yates visited four-by-four high schools in Mississippi and Alabama and talked to districts across the country. "Everyone I talked with said it was the way to go," said Yates.

Moss Point High is breaking ground outside as well as inside the classroom. "Our goal as a district is to be totally student-centered," said Yates. "We're looking at every aspect of school life to determine better ways of serving our students' needs; reorganizing our administrative tasks is one way to do that."

Beginning with this coming school year, each assistant principal and each counselor will be assigned a specific grade level and remain with the same class as it progresses toward graduation.

These administrators believe this will enhance communication with individual students and their parents, increase family involvement and ensure continuity between classes and grades.

"They'll have smaller numbers to work with and they'll build long-term relationships with these students," said Yates. "Because they'll be experts in each student's academic and personal history, they'll be able to provide better course, college and career planning."

Other changes in the district will be announced this month after the results of the district's year-long strategic planning process are adopted by the board of trustees. MS

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Behold the Fowl of the Air

Out from Memorial Park, Pass Christian

Guest Word

Adrienne Bradley

No one ever wishes for summer vacation to end. Sure the sun scorches almost every day, but it's part of the fun. August rolls around and it feels as though "doomsday" has approached.

A new school year sounds great to some, but not everyone believes that is so. Everyone is not open to the idea that a new school year provides the opportunity for a fresh start to reach new heights and to accomplish the things that will make you feel proud of y-o-u. Your friends will be there, but you shouldn't have to terminate friendships unless the friendship is in the way of you going after your goals.

If, in the past, you have been the class clown, pull away from that role. Surprise your friends by showing them that there are brains in your head. If you have cheated on a test or assignment, develop study habits which will allow you to make the grade without having to cheat - solo, if necessary. If you are having a serious problem in a class, talk with your teacher and seek out a tutor or a friend or classmate who has a good grasp of the subject.

If you have been a party animal in the past, I would advise you to begin practicing the theory: Hard work before trifling play makes student get the grade to mosey on down the aisle and receive diploma. You will be rewarded in a major way for all of the partying you suspend.

Finally, there is no doubt that school is stressful. Each class delivers a different feeling and a different aspect. The only way to grasp these things is by being alert. Take advantage of all the opportunity to learn and to prepare yourself for a productive future. Apply yourself, push yourself and think better of yourself. Always reach higher than the sky!

Adrienne Bradley is a recent graduate of Our Lady Academy in Bay St. Louis and will begin her freshman year at the University of South Alabama in September. MS

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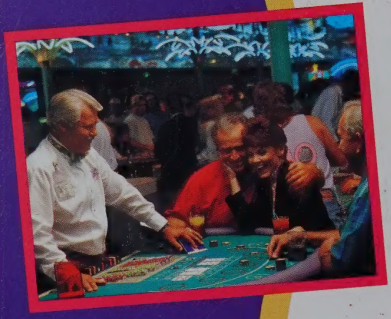

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